

**Public Health & Safety Committee Report  
for the Meeting of August 6th, 2014**

Present were Director John Rita, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Fire Chief James Klinker, Jim McGeever, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johanson, and myself. Also present were Mr. Allan Stevo, Ms. Carol Greene and Alderman Marcia Stone. Absent were Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Buckner. The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

**Citizens Concerns**

Mr. Allan Stevo had three questions: The first was concerning the August 5<sup>th</sup> shooting at 125<sup>th</sup> and Western. The second was concerning the appointment of a Police Chief. The third was concerning a discussion which appeared on a internet message board.

**Fire Department Report**

The Fire Department had 303 calls in July, 182 were EMS calls  
156 Patients were treated  
133 Patients were transported  
49 Patients refused transport

They responded to 19 general fire alarms, and 30 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 32 auto aid calls, most calls were from Calumet Park.

They had 36 calls to man the station.

They received 4 mutual aid response call.

Calls of interest for June: A suicidal subject on the Western Avenue overpass on 7/16. Chief Klinker thanked the Police Department, particularly Officer Delgadillo for their assistance on this call. Chief Klinker also mentioned the odor investigations at 3301 Wireton Road on 7/17 and 7/25. It was determined that the natural gas smell was originating from NuStar Energy.

Medical Reimbursement Services for July \$48,304.74

Fire Recovery collected \$348.00 in July.

**General**

Chief Luety's retired effective July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Probationary Firefighter Martin Kaplnek started July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and has been working day shift. He will be assigned to shift after his 4 weeks of daily training. Probationary Firefighter Adam Marcolini has resigned to take a job on the Cicero Fire Department effective August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Firefighter Dennis O'Connell has resigned to take a job on the Chicago Fire Department effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The Fire Department is currently processing two new full time Firefighters.

The final Fill the Boot Drive for MDA date is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Fire Department's 135<sup>th</sup> will be celebrated on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

The St. Benedict's Charity Softball Game has been rescheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at Hart Park.

## **Maintenance**

The current situation with our ambulances is critical. At one point with two ambulances down, the Fire Department was forced to load EMS equipment onto a fire truck in order to respond to a call.

Director John Rita talked about how dire the ambulance situation is.

There are numerous ongoing vehicle maintenance issues. The Fire Department is currently tracking down parts for vehicles and prioritizing items for repair. Tom Kissell, Bob Athans and Marks from Public Works have been very helpful in repairing Fire Department vehicles.

## **Training**

The training division has completed 563.00 hours of training for the month of July.

U.S.Coast Guard conducted training for boat operations on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> along with our crews at Fays Point Marina.

## **Grants**

The AFG grant for 2 new ambulances was rejected.

Air Pack Grant update. We still have not received the approval from NIOSH.

Bunk Room has been remodeled with grant money from the Illinois Department of Commerce.

Small Equipment Grant will be applied for.

## **Police Department Report**

### **Statement by Deputy Chief Cornell**

The Blue Island Police Department saw a decrease in manpower due to retirements and injuries over the course of the last two years. That being said, the Blue Island Police Department has continued to do an admirable job by being more efficient and utilizing our resources more effectively to meet the needs of our citizens and keeping them safe.

The Police Department remains vigilant to trends in crime, crime rates and the impact it has on the City. We keep the elected officials informed of the trends so they can be aware of what is going on in their ward as well as the city.

Recently, the Blue Island Police Department was denied a grant that was based on crime statistics decrease. I felt this was a good thing and to keep you informed of how we are really doing, I compared statistics from January 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014 to the same months in the preceding year and here is what I found:

Armed Robberies/Robberies are down 9%, Battery (not including domestic) down 35%, Burglary/Residential Burglary down 16%, Criminal Defacement (graffiti) down 66%, Aggravated Battery down 22%.

The Deputy Chief thanked all the Officers for during an outstanding job.

It is important to note that calls for service have gone up, partly because of the increased community services we are providing as part of our changing philosophy from traditional policing to community policing. Some of the new responsibilities now include senior services, business checks, walking a beat and Officers addressing quality of life issues program.

The quality of life program began as a way to change the perception of the City. The conception of this program resulted from complaints that were brought to the City's attention after problems festered and became big or troublesome. In an effort to address the quality of life problems when they are small and manageable, Officers that are already patrolling the streets were given a short course on building codes.

## **Reports**

The Police Department answered 2200 calls including 208 business premise checks, 104 domestic disputes, and 100 liquor establishment checks were done.

## **Stats/Cases of Interest**

109 Alarm Calls (all unfounded)  
4 Armed Robberies (1 unfounded)  
3 Robberies  
8 Commercial Burglaries (2 unfounded)  
20 Residential Burglaries (2 unfounded)  
13 Shots Fired (8 unfounded)  
104 Domestic Disputes  
10 Foot Patrols in Residential Neighborhoods

Total money collected for the month of July \$28,750.31.

## **Calls of Interest**

On July 1<sup>st</sup> Officers responded to a burglary in progress at Radio Shack, 12125 Western. Two Officers were injured in pursuit of the subject.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to an armed robbery at the Dollar Tree on Ashland. This case is under investigation.

On July 12<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a shots fired call near 142<sup>nd</sup> and California. It was learned that people were in the area picking up what was believed to be drugs at the time of the incident.

\*On July 14<sup>th</sup> Officers Chickerillo and Cirullo were on Tactical patrol in the area of 127<sup>th</sup> and Honore. The Officers saw a group of young men that they believed may be involved in auto thefts in the area. They stopped the three individuals and one of the offenders dropped a firearm behind a car and attempted to run. The Officers did an excellent job in apprehending the offender.

\*On July 26<sup>th</sup> Officers were called to a Fight/Aggravated Battery at Gayla's Saloon, 13312 S Olde Western. This incident is being investigated by Cook County Sheriff's Department.

## **Liquor Establishment Calls**

5 disturbance calls, 2 subject removals and 1 suspicious person call were received in July on liquor establishments.

## **Injuries**

Two full time Officers are off on extended leaves. A total of five full time Officers were off for most of the month of July.

## **Miscellaneous**

In an effort to better serve our community, the Police Department has reached out to Father Ken Carlson of St. Benedict's Church and asked him to be a Public Safety Chaplain. This is an unpaid position.

## **Events**

National Night Out on August 5<sup>th</sup> was a big success.

August 16<sup>th</sup> will be the Movie in the Park at the Father Sylvester Field.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> a health fair will be held in the East Annex.

September 7<sup>th</sup> the Active Transportation Alliance will be holding the Four Star Bike and Chow. We can expect about 500 cyclists riding through the City at various times.

September 20<sup>th</sup> will be the St. Benedict's Charity Softball Game at Hart Park.

September 27<sup>th</sup> will be the BBQ in the Park at Memorial Park.

## **911 Center**

The 911 Center received 13,934 calls in July. Committees are being formed in Springfield to help 911 centers deal with emergency text messages.

Jim McGeever supplied the Committee with a detailed time line of the armed robbery at the Dollar Tree.

There was a discussion about signups for Code Red, and the possibility of going through the schools.

## **BIEMA**

We did not receive a report from BIEMA.

## **Aldermen's Concerns**

Ald. Johanson asked about the money lost when a new Firefighter leaves to another Fire Department

Ald. Veyra expressed concern about various liquor establishments.

## **Citizen Comments**

Carol Greene asked about whether or not bonfires are allowed within the City limits. She reported graffiti on the large FOR SALE sign on Orchard.

Mr. Stevo asked if the Dollar Store has security cameras.

Ms. Greene asked if Blue Island had infrared equipment for the Police Department.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Our next regular meeting is August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 in the East Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Carr

4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman